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inspiration and prowess." While no intelligent person will deny that the excessive use of coffee has an injurious effect upon the entire nervous system, upon all the special senses not confined to the eye, and upon all the vital functions of the human organism, or that in some rare idiosyncracies it proves extremely poisonous, yet the general sentiment of the people, fortified by the experience of mankind, will place the brand of extravagance upon the claims of the article under discussion, and a great army of lively and robust "runts" will continue to thrive in all functional health and activity on that popular beverage known as coffee.

HAYES C. FRENCH, M.D.

IV.

WHOSE ENGLISH—PRESIDENT'S OR QUEEN'S?

THE Note and Comment in the October REVIEW, entitled "President's English," was remarkably entertaining, and it is not without interest to note that the peculiarity of President Cleveland's English is to an extent equaled by the peculiar diction noted by Mr. Archibald Ballantyne in "Longman's Magazine."

Mr. Ballantyne is not writing about President Cleveland, but about a British parson named William Barnes, "who was an enthusiast for the strictly English element in the English language."

"What we want," said Mr. Barnes, "for the pulpit as well as for the book, and the platform, and the people, is a pure, homely, strong Saxon-English of English stems, such as would be understood by common English minds and touch English hearts"; and as a specimen of what the English language would be under such conditions, he translates into the vernacular of his own parish one of Her Most Gracious Majesty's speeches to Parliament. His version runs as follows, and for grotesqueness it is not unworthy of a place beside the President's speech of acceptance:

(1.) My Lords and Gentlemen: The satisfaction with which I ordinarily release you from discharging the duties of the Session is, on the present occasion, qualified by a sincere regret that an important part of your labors should have failed to result in a legislative enactment.

The lightheartedness I do most woefully feel when I do let ye off from the business upon your hands in the Sessions is the same time a little bit damped, owing to a rankling in my mind that a goodish lot o' your work vell short o' comen into anything like laws.

(2.) The most friendly intercourse continues to subsist between myself and all foreign powers.

The very best o' feelens be still a-kept up in deälens between myzelf an' all o' the outlandish powers.

(3.) Diplomatic relations have been resumed with Mexico, and a preliminary agreement has been signed, providing for the negotiation of a new treaty of commerce and navigation.

Zome deälens have a-been a-took up ageän wi' Mexico, an' we've bwoth a-put our hands to an understanden-like that we'd meäke a new bargain about treäde and seafeärën.

(4.) I have to lament the failure of the efforts which were made by the European Powers assembled in the recent conference, to devise means for restoring that equilibrium in the finances of Egypt which is so important an element in its well-being and good order.

I can't but be ever so zorry that nothën come out o' the doëns o' the Girt Powers o' Europe that put their heads together tother day in the girt talking and tryën to vind out zome wäy o' puttën to rights ageän the money-stock ov Egypt, a thing that do goo so vur towards the well-been and well'doën o't.

(5.) I continue to view with unabated satisfaction the mitigation and diminution of agrarian crime in Ireland, and the substantial improvement in the condition of its people.

I do still zee to my unlesened happiness how yield crimes be a milden'd and a lessen'd in Ireland, and in what a soundly bettered plight be the vo'k.

Mr. Barnes himself can do better than President or Queen, as appears from a specimen of his own workmanship:

The mind strength and body worksomeness of the Saxon, which are of great might for good when well spent, need a training in wisdom to keep them from mis-

chief. The Saxon's mind . . . is destructive, and his sprackness wants the guidance of refined thought. . . . Thence it is that seats put out at towns are often wantonly wrenched asunder, that bars and stiles are notched by bearers of an axe, that the guide-post is upset, and coping stones are pushed off bridge walls, and trees and shrubs are damaged, and the limb sprackness is spent in whittling sticks.

If Mr. Barnes' ideas were carried out we might look for a new and enlarged edition of the dictionary. Here are some of the changes he would make :

Electricity.....	Fire-ghost.	Perambulator.....	Push-wainling.
Superannuated.....	Overyearly.	Magnificent.....	High-deedy.
Democracy.....	Folkdom.	Statics.....	Weightcraftlore.
Criticism.....	Deemsterhood.	Quadrangle.....	Fourwinkle.
Botany.....	Wortlore.	Generations.....	Child-teams.
Telegram.....	Wire-spell.	Annals.....	Year-bookings.
Altercation.....	Brangle.	Enthusiasm.....	Faith-heat.
Haughty.....	Overmindy.	Butler.....	Cellar-thane.
Omnibus.....	Folkwain.	Appendix.....	Hank-matter.
Semi-detached houses.....	House-twin.	Ambassador.....	Statespellman.
Active.....	Sprack.	Epidemic.....	Manqualm.

Of all this, Mr. Ballantyne says what may be equally applicable to the "I," "my," "me," and "myself" of the President's speech—"an author who instead of using his own (native) language in its richest and truest literary form takes up a linguistic fad . . . makes his work provincial instead of literary."

GEOFFREY CHAMPLIN.

V.

A CHOICE OF EVILS.

INTEMPERANCE is a great evil, but it is not the greatest. It is chiefly a physical disease, and can be cured. Prohibitory legislation always evokes two greater evils than the evil it seeks to exterminate. If the laws are rigidly enforced, they breed a brood of hypocrites; if they are dead letters, they engender a contempt for law. I have so profound a respect for individual freedom that I would rather see the whole nation drunk from deliberate choice, than any man sober from compulsion; and I have so profound a respect for personal integrity that I would rather see a thousand drunkards than a single hypocrite. Drunkards sometimes reform; but hypocrites have lost even the capacity to reform; they are like girdled trees, and rotten to the core. Drunkenness is only a mental skin disease. A prohibition law will only be both successful and not worse than drunkenness when it is passed and enforced by every individual *for himself*.

EDWARD F. HADMAN.

VI.

THE AGE OF MENDACITY.

It is easily susceptible of proof that there is to-day far more lying and misrepresentation of what we may term a professional type than there has ever been before. If figures are demanded it is only necessary to glance at any of the daily journals, run the eye casually, as it were, over the columns, note the number of easily detected falsehoods therein contained and multiply by the total alleged circulation as given in the sworn statement at the head of the day's issue. More than this, if each paper is read by several different persons it is fair still farther to increase the estimate, for a lie is surely a lie every time it is repeated. Thus by a very simple arithmetical process it is possible to show that millions of falsehoods—clad in all the authority that printer's ink still carries for many minds—are sent out daily upon their mission to distort the truth, if not directly to promulgate actual falsehood. During a political campaign of course this practice of journalistic lying is vastly increased, for the pernicious doctrine that justifies mendacity for political purposes has its natural effect. It is regarded as "good journalism" to print in